

Trade Agreement in 1985 and the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement in 1988 was negotiated and enacted into law under this authority.

Fast track was extended again to President Reagan as part of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. This authority allowed him and, subsequently Presidents Bush and Clinton to negotiate and enact the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA] in 1993 and the third major GATT agreement, otherwise known as the Uruguay round, in 1994.

Thus, President Clinton's fast-track proposal is nothing new. It has been used by 11 Presidents of both political parties for over the last 60 years. The previous fast-track authority expired in 1994. In the specific proposal before Congress, the President would be given until 2001, which can be extended until 2005 unless one House of Congress disapproves, the ability to negotiate further reductions to trade barriers around the world.

Once again, fast track does not take any power away from Congress. In fact, this procedure requires constant congressional review and input throughout each stage of the process from deciding which country to negotiate with to proposing the final legislative bill to implement the agreement. No President will submit a trade agreement that has not been thoroughly analyzed and supported by a majority in Congress. Without fast track, we would never have any more major agreements.

That's why I support providing any President, regardless of party affiliation, the ability to enter into comprehensive trade agreements to help boost our exports as long as the negotiations stick closely to resolving trade problems, not unrelated issues. Most observers believe Chile would be the next logical candidate to enter a free-trade agreement with the United States.

A free-trade agreement with Chile will be very beneficial to the United States. The average tariff or tax on United States exports to Chile is 11 percent. Yet, the average tariff rate for Chilean imports into the United States is less than 1 percent. Essentially, Chile already has a one-sided free-trade zone with the United States. Obviously, a free-trade agreement with zero tariffs on both sides is of greater benefit to the United States.

Chile has already entered into a variety of free-trade agreements with other nations, such as Canada and Mexico. There are documented cases when U.S. workers lost approximately \$500 million in export opportunities in 1996 to foreign competitors because the U.S. product had an 11-percent tax added on top of the base price. For example, workers at a major United States telecommunications firm lost the opportunity to help rebuild Chile's phone system to Northern Telecom of Canada because of the lack of a free-trade agreement with the United States. With fast-track authority, we can knock down these trade barriers, not just with Chile but with other countries and in specific sectors such as agriculture, automobiles, and environmental technology to help United States workers make products that will be sold abroad.

I understand that many oppose fast track because they sincerely believe that this vote serves as a referendum on the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA]. Many opponents of fast track believe that NAFTA has cost the United States hundreds of thou-

sands of jobs. First, the analysis is based on a false assumption that any trade deficit automatically translates into job loss. In some cases, imports create job opportunities here at home, from longshoremen to clerks in retail stores. In other cases, goods are imported into the United States for final assembly for consumption here or exported abroad. Thus, no one should assume that because there is a trade deficit with a certain country, then that automatically translates into U.S. job loss. If that were the case, then oil producing countries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela would be the greatest displacer of United States jobs because oil imports comprise most of our global trade deficit.

In the specific case of Mexico, it is important to remember that NAFTA actually prevented a bad situation from turning worse. United States exports to Mexico suffered a decline in 1995 because of the peso devaluation and the ensuing economic downturn, which had nothing to do with NAFTA.

A less serious economic crisis affected Mexico during the early 1980's but the impact on United States exports was much greater than 1995. Mexico's economic growth rate dropped by a significant 7 percent in 1995 as compared to a growth rate decrease of 0.6 percent in 1982 and 4.2 percent in 1983. United States exports to Mexico dropped by 35 percent in 1982 and 24 percent in 1983. However, in 1995, United States exports to Mexico decreased by only 13 percent. Why? Because Mexico honored the tariff reduction commitments it made in 1993 as part of NAFTA.

In 1982, Mexico responded to its economic downturn by raising tariffs and other import barriers against United States products to protect their industries. But in 1995, while Mexico significantly raised tariffs and trade barriers against other nations not part of NAFTA such as Europe and Japan, Mexico did not do so against the United States and Canada because that action would have violated NAFTA. Thus, while United States exports to Mexico dropped off by half in the early 1980's, they only decreased by 13 percent in 1995 during a much more severe economic crisis thanks to legal protections contained in NAFTA. In other words, whatever United States job loss can be associated with trade with Mexico after NAFTA would have been much greater in 1995 if NAFTA was not in place. Thus, NAFTA prevented the loss of more United States jobs because under the terms of NAFTA, Mexico was prohibited from raising tariffs and more red-tape regulations to restrict U.S. exports.

While many northern Illinois exporters faced a rocky road with Mexico in 1995, prospects now look brighter. I see news headlines such as: "Midwest Boom Fueled by Mexico Trade," "Spurred by NAFTA, Illinois Exports Finally Rebound," and "NAFTA's Impact on Jobs Has Been Slight, Study Says." I have heard from many companies in the 16th District of Illinois whose workers have specifically benefited because of the increased openness in Mexico thanks to NAFTA. For example, Eclipse Corp. closed up their factory in Mexico and relocated operations back to Rockford because NAFTA now allows their product to be shipped much more easily into Mexico.

But regardless of anyone's position on NAFTA, opposing fast track will not do anything to solve any remaining trade problems the United States has with Mexico. To defeat

fast track will not stop United States companies from moving their factories to Mexico or slow down Mexican imports into the United States. It is very important to remember this because many who oppose fast track sincerely believe defeating this initiative will stop these practices.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support fast track as one tool in our trade arsenal to help lower barriers around the world to U.S. exports. I have been fighting to make sure that our trade policy has all tools at its disposal, from antidumping laws, which helped Brake Parts of McHenry keep 400 jobs by fighting off unfair competition from unscrupulous Chinese brake rotor manufacturers, to the Export-Import Bank of the United States, which allowed Beloit Corp. with a manufacturing facility in Rockton, IL, keep 2,000 union workers employed along the Wisconsin-Illinois stateline border by providing a major loan to help sell two large, fine papermaking machines to Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, fast track is simply another method to help break down trade barriers so that workers and farmers in the 16th District of Illinois can continue to build and grow products that will be shipped around the world. We cannot rest on our laurels during these good economic times, which have been caused, to a large degree, by the growth in U.S. exports, as we enter the next millennium. We need continued, further progress on the global elimination of barriers to U.S. exports. There is much more work that needs to be done. That's why we need fast track.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS
EDWARD J. KURTZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to an individual who exemplifies the very best in civic pride and responsibility. On Tuesday, October 14, the Flint, MI, area Chamber of Commerce will honor Dr. Edward J. Kurtz with their Charles Stewart Mott Citizen of the Year Award.

Dr. Kurtz's name has become synonymous with education. In 1968, Dr. Kurtz introduced himself to Baker college as a student. Little did he know that this was the beginning of a relationship that would span over 30 years. Upon completing courses at Baker, Dr. Kurtz continued his education, receiving his bachelor of science degree at Ferris State University in 1968. He then returned to Baker where he worked as an instructor and later served as executive director of the school until 1974. Dr. Kurtz was then named president and chief executive officer of Baker College System, a position he maintains to this day. While serving as president, Dr. Kurtz managed to find the time to obtain his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1974 and his doctorate from Tiffin University in Ohio in 1987.

Because Dr. Kurtz has experience in all aspects of the educational arena at Baker, Dr. Kurtz provides a pleasing sense of familiarity and empathy for the students, staff, and faculty under his care. Due to Dr. Kurtz's leadership, Baker College System has set a new

standard for growth and expansion. During his tenure the college has grown from its humble beginning to a nine-campus, career-oriented, regionally accredited family of institutions. Offering over 80 academic programs, Baker's enrollment has seen a meteoric rise from 200 to over 15,000 students, rivaling many of the State's public 4-year institutions. Revenue for the school has increased from under \$500,000 to a current rate of more than \$70 million.

Dr. Kurtz's commitment to our community is evident in the number of organizations that seek his experience and insight. He has served in prominent leadership positions with groups such as the Greater Flint Educational Consortium, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Flint Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan just to name a few. The honors and awards that have been bestowed on Dr. Kurtz are evidence of the regard in which he is held. However, we can never properly thank Dr. Kurtz for his dedication to educating our students and ensuring that no barriers exist to prevent an individual from obtaining the necessary skills to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride that I appear before you today to recognize my colleague, my constituent, and my friend, Dr. Edward J. Kurtz. The Charles Stewart Mott Citizen of the Year Award is given to individuals who show leadership, integrity, credibility, inspiration to other people, and commitment to the community. Therefore, Dr. Kurtz is the perfect candidate to receive this prestigious award. His love and dedication has made our community a much better place. I urge my colleagues in the house of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Edward J. Kurtz on this tremendous honor.

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, October 5 through October 11 is National Fire Prevention Week. Today I want to take time out to recognize the firefighters back home in Missouri's Ninth Congressional District. While there are many local fire departments who demonstrate excellence within the community, one shining example is the Palmyra volunteer fire department.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the eighteen members of the Palmyra volunteer fire department received an award earlier this year, naming it the top fire department in the entire State of Missouri.

While they fight fires with the best of them, they truly are public servants. Nominated because of the community service performed by its members, the Palmyra fire department enjoys wide support from the local residents.

Fire Chief Chuck Hoehne, a 30-year veteran of the department, said it well, "Everything we do, the community is behind us. They support us 100 percent." Mr. Speaker, that is easy to believe once you learn more about the group.

When the team is not busy with their jobs, such as bank managers, sales clerks, construction workers, and insurance salesmen, they are out in Palmyra educating residents

about the importance of fire safety. They make trips to all the schools with the Stay Alive House, a model used to teach people how to escape from a burning building. Students also are invited to tour the fire station.

Due in large part to the education provided by this exceptional team, I am pleased to report that fires are on the decrease in Palmyra—something to celebrate during National Fire Prevention Week.

Congratulations are in order for the Palmyra fire department, making northeastern Missouri a safer place to live.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the members and clergy of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bayonne, NJ. This year the church is celebrating its 90th anniversary. When the church first opened its doors in 1907, it was the culmination of a dream 30 years in the making.

As early as 1877, the congregation was considering the idea that they had to build a church in Bayonne. At the time, since there was no church in Bayonne, worshipers had to row across the Kill Van Kull to Staten Island, a situation which presented many hardships to the Lutherans of Bayonne.

The church has not only survived for 90 years, it has also thrived, and in the process it has enriched the community. The church's numerous humanitarian public service projects and the friendly outgoing nature of the congregation's members, have helped make Bayonne and the surrounding area a better place to live.

For 90 years, congregants and clergy have worked diligently to ensure the success of the church and the community. Over their long and varied history the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church relocated, expanded, built nursery and parish additions to their church building, and merged with the fellow Lutheran congregation of St. Paul's.

This important work was performed and done under the guidance, patients, and love of brave clergy who desired the best for their congregation and their community. Clergy such as the Rev. Bergwater, the ground breaking first pastor of the congregation, Revs. Willis and Clare, Rev. Schrum who built the parish house, Rev. Jaxheimer who oversaw major renovations and the historic merger with St. Paul's, and Rev. Larson who introduced new elements into the liturgy. During the past 10 years the mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran has continued under the guidance of Pastors Ficken, Wright, and Carter.

The congregation is reflective of our Nation's greatest treasure—its people. A people who are not afraid to face the future. A people that know that with perseverance anything can be achieved.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding congregation in my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the excellent work of Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF JAMES E. ANTHONY OF THE GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend who has dedicated his life to serving his family, his community and his country. Glendale Chief of Police James E. Anthony has spent the last 34 years protecting the lives of others, and investing in the lives of those around him.

Chief Anthony followed both his father and his uncle into law enforcement. He began his career with the FBI in Washington where he quickly rose through the ranks to become special messenger to John Edgar Hoover.

In 1969, he returned to his native southern California and accepted a post with the West Covina Police Department. In his seventeen years of service there, he distinguished himself as a man of honor, integrity and determination. His efforts paid off when he was appointed to the position of department commander.

Chief Anthony is a natural leader, and his abilities were not to go untapped. In 1980 he became the Chief of Police of the Chino Police Department and served that community until his move to Glendale in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, over the last five years, Chief Jim Anthony has tirelessly served the people of Glendale, which is one of the largest cities in Los Angeles County. He has led a staff of over three hundred people by inspiring and encouraging others to offer their best for our community.

Chief Anthony has exemplified the spirit of law enforcement. In over thirty years of public service, he has seen the methods of fighting crime go from pen and paper to laser and infrared. As he looks forward to his retirement, I know my colleagues join me on behalf of the Congress of the United States in saluting Chief James E. Anthony, for his life of service to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAIWAN'S 86TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, October 10, 1997, marks the 86th anniversary of the Republic of China's emergence as Asia's first republic. I heartily congratulate not only the Republic of China, but Taiwanese nationals all over the world on this momentous occasion.

For years, the people of Guam have welcomed Taiwanese citizens, whether as permanent residents or visitors, to our island. Our cultural, economic, and political collaborations have proven beneficial not only on an official level, but on social planes as well. The recent renovation of the Chinese Park in Upper Tumon is a perfect example of our appreciation of each other's cultures and ways of living.

I also take this opportunity to commend the work of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam under the guidance of Director